

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 EUR-25 OPIC-12 DRC-01 XMB-07 TRSE-00 AID-20

CIEP-03 DOTE-00 L-03 /105 W

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R 2731030Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5785

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 1220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD -- LOCOMOTIVES

REF: A) STATE 211528; B) LIBREVILLE 1193

1. BECAUSE OF GE REQUEST PARA 2, REF A, WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED GOG REGARDING INFO SOUGHT PARA 3. HOWEVER, OCTRA ASST. LEMETEYER TOLD AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN SEPT 26 THAT CONTRACT WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN FRENCH AND GE. SAME INFORMATION CONFIRMED BY LOCAL FRENCH JOURNALIST WITH GOOD CONNECTIONS AT PRESIDENCY. THIS JOURNALIST STATED THAT ONE HALF OF FINANCING FOR FRENCH LOCOMOTIVES IS GRANT, AND ONE HALF LOAN AT BETWEEN 6 AND ONE-HALF AND 7 AND ONE-HALF PERCENT.

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD SOME QUESTION RE TRANSCONTINENTAL SERVICES COMPETENCE AND CAPABILITIES, WE BELIEVE THAT ITS PROBLEM WITH JAMES BROWN CONCEPT IS COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM GE AND SHOULD RESULT IN NO HARM TO GE PROSPECTS.

3. COMMENT: THOUGH EMBASSY CERTAINLY AGREES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE COULD GE WIN ENTIRE LOCOMOTIVES CONTRACT -- BOTH FOR REASONS OF OPERATING EFFICIENCY AND STRAIGHT MONETARY GAIN TO U.S. FIRM -- THIS IS PROBABLY NOT A VERY REALISTIC EXPECTATION. FRENCH INFLUENCE IN GABON AND PARTICULARLY WITHIN TRANSGABON RAILROAD IS SIMPLY TOO STRONG AND FRENCH FINANCING TERMS ARE TOO ATTRACTIVE.

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FOR THESE REASONS ALSO WE BELIEVE ANY "PROTEST" BY GE, UNLESS

COUCED IN POLITE FORM OF TECHNICAL COUNSEL, WOULD PROBABLY BE  
RESENTED AND ULTIMATELY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.  
MCKESSON

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 27 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** TRANSGABON RAILROAD -- LOCOMOTIVES  
**TAGS:** BEXP, GB  
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